

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

STATE SENATOR 28th District

## Mark C. Jansen



Address: P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Phone: 517.373.0797

Toll-Free: 866.305.2128

Fax: 517.373.5236

Website: [www.SenatorMarkJansen.com](http://www.SenatorMarkJansen.com)

E-mail: [senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov)

Dear Neighbor:

Everyday when we wake up, the news seems to be repeating the same negative song - falling revenues, record unemployment and families who are hurting. We are all facing seemingly impossible decisions in every facet of our lives. However, despite the economic uncertainty, Michigan is truly a great place to live and raise a family. Our state's natural beauty and resources are second to none, our communities strong and our people hard working, resilient and resourceful.

This resourcefulness is the reason why we are able to build ourselves back up and put Michigan back to work. One of my priorities in the Senate has been making our economic environment once again ready for growth. During my time at the Capitol, I have worked extensively to eliminate wasteful spending and create a more efficient, responsive, and accountable state government; all of which stand to benefit our citizens, schools, communities and businesses.

Please know my days have been full of meetings, discussions, and active searching to find the solutions necessary to produce a balanced and fair budget, one that will not unduly burden our children, vulnerable citizens or local employers.

I am hopeful we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, though there is still substantial work to be done. I do wish to thank you for your patience and understanding as we push through this process, and I hope you will continue to share your suggestions and ideas with me. As always, if you need assistance with any state matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark C. Jansen".

State Senator Mark C. Jansen



## PATRIOTIC LICENSE PLATE NOW AVAILABLE

We owe so much to the courage and sacrifice of the men and women serving in our armed forces. Now we have the opportunity to show our appreciation by buying a Support Our Troops license plate. The cost of the plate is \$35, with \$25 of the fee donated to the non-profit Support Our Troops organization, which sends care packages to troops stationed overseas.

In addition, I have introduced Senate Bill 59, which would provide for a Habitat for Humanity license plate. The proceeds of which will be donated to the Habitat for Humanity Fund and serve to assist in efforts to establish affordable housing around the State of Michigan. SB 59 is currently awaiting action in the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation.



In these tough economic times, parents shouldn't have to worry about the health of their children.

Your family may qualify for MICHild, a health insurance program for uninsured children of Michigan's working families. The program costs \$10 a month per family. There are no co-pays or deductibles.

The services are provided by many HMOs and other health care plans and include, but are not limited to:

- Prenatal care and delivery
- Regular checkups
- Shots
- Emergency care
- Dental care
- Pharmacy
- Hospital care

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call toll-free 1.888.988.6300.



## PROTECTING THE PUBLIC WITH CORRECTIONS REFORM

As a legislator, public safety is at the top of my list. New legislation working its way through the Senate helps the state save money in the corrections system without closing prisons and releasing felons.

Among other provisions, Senate Bills 473-478 and Senate Resolution 41:

- Set requirements that prisoners must meet to be paroled, including a detailed treatment plan for drug and alcohol abuse, or mental health, if appropriate;
- Require Corrections to purchase all goods and services by competitive bid;
- Require Corrections to partner with in-state medical schools for health care services;
- Require counties with teleconferencing technology to use it for court proceedings; and
- Urge Corrections to set up nondenominational prison congregation programs.

Public safety should never be compromised for budget reasons. These reforms are common sense measures that streamline prison services and cut spending without putting people at risk.

## STRENGTHENING OUR CHILD PROTECTION LAWS

Sometimes children have to be removed from their homes and cannot safely be returned. There are currently 5,000 such children in Michigan and they deserve a safe home, just like your children and mine. As the Chair of the Senate Families and Human Services Committee, I diligently work for child safety and permanency. The number of children that have contact with the state for abuse or neglect reasons has decreased but there have been some terrible and truly unfortunate cases in the last several years. We have no other option but to continue critical efforts towards improvements in the outcomes for children. I have several bills that would, among other things, ensure and increase accountability and communication between the courts and regulatory agencies, and provide for a stronger review system any time a child is harmed or dies while involved with any facet of protection by the State.

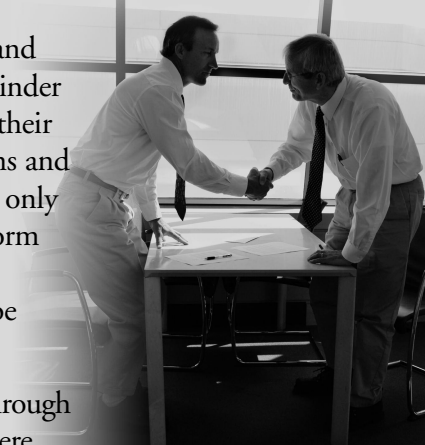
There have been too many heartbreaking deaths of vulnerable children in recent years. I am hopeful these reform measures will provide the appropriate tools to help state and local agencies identify any patterns or trends to avoid any similar tragedies.

# MBT SURCHARGE REPEAL

I am sure you are aware of our flawed business tax system, known as the Michigan Business Tax (MBT). A prominent piece of the business tax is the 21.99% surcharge that was added in late 2007 to keep the MBT fiscally neutral, a requirement for the Governor's signature. However, it has become obvious that the surcharge is a considerable burden for the state's economy and must be addressed. I introduced Senate Bill 1 in January to repeal the surcharge and give our businesses, neighbors, and communities a chance to recapture their economic vitality.

Much of my time in Lansing has been focused on the economy, including the state's budget and overall tax system. We are faced with daily decisions on funding and each day serves as a reminder that the State must live within its means. I have heard from people around the state on how their lives are being affected by the huge cost of the surcharge. I have spoken with large corporations and smaller, family run business alike; I refuse to accept that the MBT, as currently written, is our only option. These businesses are owned and staffed by our friends, neighbors and families, and form part of the foundation for countless communities. Taxes such as these and our record high unemployment are undoubtedly linked, and any opportunity to improve the situation must be taken immediately.

My goals are to keep the jobs we still have here in Michigan planted firmly, to bring others in through diversification efforts and establish a productive business climate. By keeping and adding jobs here, we keep our families, schools and communities healthy and running to the best of their ability.



## Job Resources:

In today's economy, it's important to take advantage of every opportunity available when you are looking for a new job. I hope this job resource guide provides a good starting point. (Website addresses and phone numbers subject to change)

### Jobless Benefits

Unemployment Insurance Assistance –  
file for unemployment.....[www.michigan.gov/uia](http://www.michigan.gov/uia)  
Toll-free claims line: 866.500.0017  
MARVIN certification: 866.638.3993

**COBRA Continuation Coverage** – help with  
premium payments for health insurance coverage under  
COBRA.....<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/COBRA.html>

### Adult Education

Grand Rapids Community College.....616.234.4000  
[www.grcc.cc.mi.us](http://www.grcc.cc.mi.us)  
Ferris State University.....616.451.4777 or 800.998.3425  
Grand Valley State University .....616.331.7220  
Western Michigan University (graduate programs).....  
616.771.4100  
Calvin College .....616.526.6000  
Cornerstone University .....616.949.5300  
Davenport University.....616.451.3511

### Job Search Resources

Michigan Works! – primary training and workforce  
development site, includes Michigan Talent Bank and No  
Worker Left Behind retraining program .....  
<http://michiganworks.org>  
800.285.WORK

Kent Michigan Works! .....616.336.4460  
888.779.7774

Michigan Works! M-TECH Service Center .....  
616.234.3398

Michigan Jobs and Career Portal – search job listings,  
create your resume, and find career events and job fairs.....  
[www.michigan.gov/careers](http://www.michigan.gov/careers)

Michigan Job Network – another source for job seekers....  
[www.michiganjobnetwork.com](http://www.michiganjobnetwork.com)

Michigan Civil Service – state government jobs and  
employment information .....[www.michigan.gov/mdcs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs)

U.S. Federal Government – U.S. government job  
opportunities worldwide.....[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)



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P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing, MI 48909-7536

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TOLL-FREE: 866.305.2128

E-MAIL: [senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov)



## Buy Michigan Products

Too many items we consider totally American are actually not made in America any more. This is why I chose to support Senate Bill 48, which requires all American or State of Michigan flags flown over state-owned buildings to have been made in the United States. Also, I urge you to always think locally when purchasing food or any other household goods. We have incredible industries and craftsmen here in Michigan and we owe it to ourselves to continue supporting our fellow Americans and Michiganders. Please help me in making Michigan's commerce local again.

## LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

Please take a moment to fill out this legislative survey. You can mail the completed survey to my office at Senator Mark C. Jansen, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536 OR go to [www.SenatorMarkJansen.com](http://www.SenatorMarkJansen.com) and complete the survey.

1. Do you support taxing items such as cigarettes, beer, and fast food? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
If so, do you support those funds being applied specifically to health care costs? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Do you support a ban on smoking in all restaurants, workplaces, and public space? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Do you support a statewide Health Insurance Pool for all state employees? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Do you feel Michigan's environmental regulations should be:  
☐ Increased ☐ Kept the same ☐ Decreased
5. Are you in favor of turning over state regulatory services to the federal government when they already regulate those functions? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_